

## Vocabulary “A New World Rising”

- **artifact** - usually a simple object such as a tool or ornament showing human work and representing a culture or a stage in the development of a culture
- Caribbean - a region that consists of the Caribbean Sea, its islands and the surrounding coasts
- **chinampas** - small, stationary, artificial islands built on a freshwater lake for agricultural purposes
- **city-state** - a state that has its own government and consists of a city and the area around it
- civilization - the stage of human social development and organization that is considered most advanced
- **codex** - the first kind of book made up of a number of sheets of paper or papyrus, hand-written, usually stacked and bound by fixing one edge and with covers thicker than the sheets
- culture - the characteristic features of everyday life shared by people in a particular place or time
- environment - the whole complex of factors such as soil, climate, and living things that influence the form and the ability to survive of a plant, animal, or human being
- **glyphs** - symbolic figures or characters (as in the Mayan system of writing) usually cut in or carved in relief
- **hieroglyphics** - a system of writing mainly in pictorial characters
- hypothesis - something not yet proved but assumed to be true for purposes of further study or investigation
- **iconography** - the images or symbols related to something
- **irrigation** - bringing in water to the land to help plants grow
- land bridge - an isthmus or wider land connection between otherwise separate areas, over which animals, plants, and human beings are able to cross
- **Mesoamerica** – the geographic region extending approximately from central [Mexico](#) to [Belize](#), [Guatemala](#), [El Salvador](#), [Honduras](#), [Nicaragua](#), and northern [Costa Rica](#)
- migration - to move from one country, place, or locality to another
- North America - a region that includes Canada and the United States
- Paleo-Indians - name given to the first peoples who entered, and subsequently lived, in the American continents during the final glacial episodes
- **quipu** - an ancient Inca device for recording information, consisting of colored threads knotted in different ways
- **South America** - a continent and region of the Western Hemisphere southeast of North America and has much of it south of the Equator
- **terracing** - make or form (sloping land) into a number of level areas resembling a series of steps to create a flat area to farm